



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet West Virginia 2020



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2019 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$310,854
Forest Legacy	\$68,101
Forest Stewardship	\$327,611
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$644,788
Urban and Community Forestry	\$338,047
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$161,852
Total	\$1,851,253

NOTE: This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

State, private, and other non-Federal forests make up 92 percent of the 176 million acres of forests across the 20 states of the Northeast and Midwest. The U.S. Forest Service and state forestry agencies collaborate with other partners on shared stewardship goals, which also support each State Forest Action Plan. The State and Private Forestry programs promote the health, resilience, and productivity of trees and forests across all ownerships for the benefit of people and wildlife; establish and manage urban and community forests; empower private landowners with information and technical assistance to sustainably manage their forests; and protect critically important rural forests and watersheds.

Program Goals

- Conserve and manage working forest landscapes for multiple values and uses.
- Protect forests from threats.
- Enhance public benefits from trees and forests.

Key Issues

- Competing land uses.
- Communications and education.
- Sustainability of forest resources in West Virginia.
- Water quality.
- Wildfire management, resource protection, and public safety.
- Sustainability of urban forests.
- Forest health.
- Utilization, marketing, and economic development.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2019 Accomplishments	Value
Population	1,852,994	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	8,668
Acres of Forest Land	11,983,571	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	7,907
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	10,418,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	7,308
Number of NIPF Landowners	251,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	100
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	9
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	12,000,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	0
Number of Rural Fire Departments	432	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	232	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	60
Forest Based Employment	10,198	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	489,128
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	1	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	7,745
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	8,007,548		

Program Highlights**Cooperative Fire Protection**

West Virginia acquired \$85,256 in property from the Department of Defense Fire Fighter Program and \$69,508 in property from the Federal Excess Personal Property program. The property is used to support the state's and volunteer fire departments' wildland fire programs.

Forest Health Protection

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture treated 1,302 high-value and high-visibility infested hemlocks on state and private lands. Japanese barberry removal continued at Cacapon State Park in Morgan County. The spotted lanternfly was detected in Berkeley County.

Forest Stewardship

The West Virginia Stewardship Program reported 51 new or revised forest stewardship plans covering 7,907 acres, of which 7,308 acres were in Important Forest Areas per West Virginia's Strategic Forest Action Plan. In collaboration with other forestry-related partners, 6,474 landowners were provided forestry technical assistance and 2,194 landowners participated in education programs. A Forest Stewardship Training Workshop was hosted by the West Virginia Division of Forestry and drew 125 attendees from various state agencies, including private forestry consultants. Unmanned Aircraft Systems are used for collection of aerial imagery in support of forest protection, forest management, and logging sediment control inspections. The Division of Forestry currently has a fleet of nine small unmanned aircraft and eight employees who have received their certification from the Federal Aviation Administration as fully qualified remote pilots.

Urban and Community Forestry

West Virginia's Urban Forestry program provided assistance to 71 communities, positively impacting 510,573 West Virginians. The grant program funded five community projects resulting in approximately \$92,000 in urban forestry investments that include tree planting, maintenance and tree inventories, and management software for several Tree City USA communities. West Virginia University and Shepherd University achieved Tree Campus USA status for the first time. Potomac Edison and Mon Power, under the First Energy umbrella, were the first utilities in the state to achieve Tree Line USA prominence this year.

Contact Information



West Virginia Department of Commerce

Barry Cook
State Forester
Division of Forestry
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305-0180
304-558-2788
barry.l.cook@wv.gov

US Forest Service Eastern Region

Mark Buccowich
Acting Deputy Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service
626 E Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202-4616
414-297-3600
mark.buccowich@usda.gov
